

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 2308

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CE, CI

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTERS STATEMENT ON OVERTHROW OF ALLENDE GOVT

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS, PM BANDARANAIKE RELEASED FOLLOWING STATEMENT SEPT 13, ON OVERTHROW OF ALLENDE GOVT IN CHILE: "THE OVERTHROW BY MILITARY ATTACKS OF TYA DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED ALLENDE GOVT IN CHILE HAS PROVOKED INDIGNATION AND OP-PZ POSITION AMONG THE PEOPLE OF SRI LANKA AND THEIR GOVT.

2. THE GOVT OF SALVADOR ALLENDE HAD ON THE BASIS OF THE POPULAR MANDATE IT HAD RECEIVED, EMBARKED ON A NUMBER OF PROGRESSIVE MEASURES IN THE INTERESTS OF THEIR POEPL. NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, THESE MEASURES WERE OPPOSED BYMLSTTED INTERESTS BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN AND THEY BEGAN INCREASINGLY TO RESORT TO ACTS OF VIOLENCE. BUT THE USE OF THE ARMED FORCES TO OVERTHROW AN ELECTED GOVT WHICH HAS ACTED WITHIN THE CONSTITUTION OF ITS COUNTRY, IS A VIOLATION OF DEMOCRACY AND THE RIGHT OF ANY PEOPLE TO DETERMINE THE CHARACTER OF THEIR GOVT AND THE COURSE OF AFFAIRS FOR THEIR COUNTRY.

3. THE EVENTS IN CHILE ARE ONE MORE PROFF THAT THE REAL DANGER FOR DEMOCRACY COMES FROM THE VESTED INTERESTS AND THEIR POLITICAL LEADERSHIP. HISTORY HAS PROVED THAT THE VESTED INTERESTS ALWAYS COVER UP THEIR HOSTILITY TO PROSESSIVE SOCIAL CHANGE AND PICK ON ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES WHICH HAVE BEEN
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CREATED BY THEIR OWN ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND THEIR ANTI-SOCIAL

BEHAVIOUR TO JUSTIFY UNCONSTITUTIONAL OPPOSITION TO LEGALLY ELECTED GOVTS.

4. WHILE REITERATING THE FAITH OF THE GOVT OF SRI LANKA IN THE RIGHT OF A PEOPLE TO BRING ABOUT PEACEFUL SOCIAL CHANGE, IT CALLS UPON THE PEOPLE TO DRU THE CORRECT LESSONS FROM THE VENTS IN CHILE. THE PEOPLE AND TOVT OF SRI LANKA EXTEND THEIR SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF CHILE AND SYMPATHISE WITH THEIR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THEIR PROGRESSIVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL OBJECTIVES AND TO SAFEGUARD THEIR INDEPENDENCE."

5. DAILY NEWS AND DAILY MIRROR CARRIED REPORT OF PM'S STATEMENT NEXT TO REUPJRS STORY THAT US GOVT KNEW OF COUP PLAN 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE, JUXTAPOSITION CREATING IMPRESSION THAT USG WAS SOMEHOW INVOLVED. PM'S STATEMENT, HOWEVER, IS CAREFULLY WORDED AND AVOIDS ANY OF USUAL LEFT-WING RHETORIC WHICH WOULD IMPLY US COLLUSION. EVENTS IN CHILE WILL HAVE STRONG PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT HERE AS MANY IN GOVT HAVE LONG FELT GSL AND ALLENDE APPROACHES WERE PARALLEL. AS ECONOMIC SITUATION WORSENS, LEFTIST FEARS OF RIGHT-WING OR MILITARY COUP ATTEMPTS ARE LIKELY TO GROW.

VAN HOLLEN

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